



City of Huntington Beach

2000 MAIN STREET

CALIFORNIA 92648

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

Phone 536-5271
Fax 374-1540
374-1648

December 21, 2005

Angela Reynolds, Environmental Officer
City of Long Beach
Planning and Building Department
333 W. Ocean Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90802

Subject: Draft EIR for the Long Beach Airport Terminal Area Improvement Project

Dear Ms. Reynolds:

Thank you for giving the City of Huntington Beach the opportunity to review the Draft EIR for the Long Beach Airport Terminal Expansion Project. The City of Huntington Beach has reviewed the document and has the following comments. The City of Huntington Beach requests that these comments be addressed prior to approval of the Final EIR.

The City of Huntington Beach understands that a maximum of 41 air carrier flights and 25 commuter flights per day currently are permitted. However, the Draft EIR does not indicate whether all 66 flights are typically made each day. The City is concerned that the current number of flights out of the Long Beach Airport is less than the maximum, and that following the completion of the Airport Terminal Expansion Project, the number of flights would increase to the maximum allowable. Please clarify how many flights typically operate per day, as any increase may potentially impact the City of Huntington Beach and include the impact analysis within the EIR.

A second concern is the noise associated with the existing flight patterns of the aircrafts. The Draft EIR identifies noise levels within the immediate area of the runways, but does not address the noise impacts associated with the low level flight patterns over the surrounding cities when approaching the airport for landing. More information should be given regarding noise impacts along the entire flight path into Long Beach Airport from the south. It is difficult to determine what areas of Huntington Beach are being affected by air traffic noise based on the noise level maps (Exhibit 3.6-10a). Please provide additional information regarding the ground noise levels in Huntington Beach when the aircrafts are approaching the landing strip.

Aircraft noise is a major concern with the City of Huntington Beach. The Noise Element of the Huntington Beach General Plan identifies noise impacts generated by aircraft operations flying over the City. In addition to the Noise Element, Chapter 8.40 (Noise Control) of the Huntington Beach Municipal Code was adopted to control unnecessary, excessive and annoying sounds.

The goal of the City is to make every effort to ensure that all necessary and appropriate actions are taken to protect the residents, visitors and employees from the adverse impacts created by excessive noise levels. Therefore, the EIR needs to analyze if any residential neighborhoods or sensitive land uses beneath the Long Beach Airport's flight path are within the CNEL 65 contour.

If you have any questions please contact me at (714) 374-1553. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jason Kelley", is written above the printed name.

Jason Kelley
Assistant Planner